

Bahrain-Singapore relations



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, highlighted the growth of bilateral relations between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Republic of Singapore, noting that ties continue to advance in line with the mutual commitment to achieving shared aspirations. HRH Prince Salman was speaking as he met yesterday with His Excellency K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs of the Republic of Singapore, at Riffa Palace. During the meeting, issues of common interest, as well as the latest regional and international developments, were discussed.

Boosting aviation and logistics sector



His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, emphasised Bahrain's commitment to attracting investments and strengthening partnerships to support the growth of the aviation and logistics sector, reinforcing the Kingdom's position as a leading regional hub in line with the comprehensive development led by His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. HRH Prince Salman yesterday met with Tony Fernandes, Chief Executive Officer of Capital A Berhad, at Riffa Palace. HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister stressed the importance of the aviation and logistics sector as a key driver of economic development and a critical pillar in enhancing the Kingdom's overall competitiveness.

Digital roads

Parliament approves move to improve electronic traffic services and procedures

Hasan Barakat
TDT | Manama

Parliament approved a proposal to improve traffic procedures through expanded digital services, reflecting growing demand for a more efficient, user-friendly system that aligns with the Kingdom's wider digital transformation goals.

The decision follows discussions highlighting both the potential and the current limitations of electronic traffic services.

MPs broadly supported digitisation in traffic management, noting that electronic systems can reduce delays, improve transparency and ease pressure on both citizens and government bodies.

However, the debate made clear that digitisation must translate into real improvements in daily transactions, rather than remaining a partial or fragmented process.

Gaps

During the session, MPs raised concerns over gaps in the existing electronic system,



“Digitisation should serve the citizen first. Systems must be simple, accessible and fair to all users.”
— MP ABDULHAKIM AL SHENO

including unclear procedures, technical difficulties with login processes, and the continued need for manual document handling in some cases.

Questions were also raised about the reliability of certain electronic cards and whether

all officially issued documents are fully recognised by traffic systems.

Attention was drawn to the need for all traffic related procedures, including payments and renewals, to be available through approved digital platforms.

MPs argued that a modern system should eliminate unnecessary paperwork movement and reduce dependence on in-person transactions wherever possible.

Digitisation

MP Abdulhakim Al Sheno highlighted that digitisation should serve the citizen first, stressing that systems must be simple, accessible and fair to all users.

He noted that technological progress loses its value if it creates new obstacles or excludes certain segments of society.

With parliamentary approval secured, the focus now shifts to implementation, with expectations that relevant authorities will refine procedures and strengthen digital integration to deliver a more responsive and effective traffic service.

Support for students with ADHD

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The Council of Representatives approved a proposal calling on the Ministry of Education to adopt targeted educational measures and enhance the training of psychological counsellors to support students diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in public and private schools.

The move reflects growing awareness of the academic and social challenges faced by affected students and their families.

MPs agreed that ADHD is not a marginal issue but a widespread condition that directly affects classroom management, learning outcomes and student wellbeing.

During discussions, members highlighted the importance of

MPs also emphasised the importance of adapting teaching methods, assessment tools and classroom environments to meet diverse learning needs.

early diagnosis and structured support, noting that many students possess strong abilities yet struggle without appropriate educational and psychological guidance.

Observations

During deliberations, MPs presented a range of observations on the need for structured and sustained support within schools.

MP Jaleela Alawi Al Sayed Hasan stressed the importance of early diagnosis and special-

ised educational approaches, noting that the condition affects a significant proportion of students in every school.

MP Dr. Ali Majed Al Nuaimi underlined the need for institutional readiness and trained counsellors capable of responding effectively to behavioural and academic challenges.

MP Mahmood Merza Fardan highlighted the pressure placed on teachers and school administrations in the absence of adequate support mechanisms.

Continuity

MP Lulwa Ali Al Rumaihi emphasised the importance of continuity in psychological and educational support beyond the early stages of schooling, while MP Muneer Ebrahim Seroor stressed the need for coordinated national programmes to protect students' mental wellbeing and educational progress.

Housing allowance from date of marriage

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The Council of Representatives approved a proposal calling for the housing allowance to be paid from the date of marriage, rather than after a five year waiting period.

This move aims to strengthen family stability and ease financial pressure on newly married citizens. The decision reflects growing concern over the rising cost of living and the challenges young families face at the start of married life.

MPs agreed that housing sup-

MPs also raised concerns about fairness between different social groups, pointing out that young families with moderate incomes are often most affected by delayed housing benefits.

port is a core pillar of social stability and should align with other state benefits that begin immediately upon marriage.

Members noted that delaying

the allowance places unnecessary strain on households during a critical period when couples often manage rent, loans and essential living expenses simultaneously.

During deliberations, MPs highlighted the disparity between housing support and other allowances granted from the outset of marriage.

MP Dr. Ali Majed Al Nuaimi stressed that the family is the foundation of society and that early financial support plays a key role in reducing marital stress and discouraging delays in marriage.

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